

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1, beginning on line 4, to read:

--This is a continuation of application number 09/879,527 filed June 12, 2001, now ~~abandoned~~ U.S. Patent 6,620,254, which was a continuation of international application PCT/CH99/00602 filed December 15, 1999, which claimed priority on Swiss application 2477/98 filed December 15, 1999, which priority claim is repeated here.--